

CONTACT:

Jennifer Pennell, MPH, CHES
Certified Health Education Specialist II
(909) 466-7387 (PETS)
San Bernardino County
Animal Care & Control Program
606 East Mill St., 2nd Floor
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0003

January 4, 2005

PHD # 05-02

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – January 4, 2005****“Helping Seniors and their Pets”**

San Bernardino, CA -- During the course of your day, if you have contact with a senior citizen that expresses a need for medical care for their pet, please refer them to the Pet OverPopulation COalition (POPCO).

The Pet Assistance Foundation has been awarded the Herdina Fund, which provides financial assistance to low income (\$1,000 or less a month) senior citizens for medical care for their pets (including vaccinations).

There are over 10 groups that have received this fund, which can make it confusing to residents as to who they should call. Therefore, POPCO has agreed to screen all of the phone calls and refer citizens to the proper program.

POPCO's number is **1-877-44POPCO**.

Please remind people in need of services to leave a message with POPCO's automated answering service. Volunteers will respond to their request so long as they leave a message.

Please help the senior citizens in our county to receive the extra help they may need.

For more information, please call the San Bernardino County Animal Care & Control Program toll free at 1-800-472-5609. Thank you!

###